

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Fifty years ago our nation ended military involvement in the Republic of South Vietnam, thus ending military involvement in what was then the longest war in our country's history; and,

Whereas, By the end of the Vietnam War in April 1975 nearly three million American servicemen and women had been on the ground, in the air, on the rivers, and at sea within Vietnam's borders serving in some capacity during the conflict, and it is important to honor the men and women who survived and at least 58,260 men and women who gave their lives; and,

Whereas, Though long and controversial in nature, this war in many ways defined an entire generation of Americans, and over 28,000 of South Dakota's sons and daughters served in the military during the Vietnam War, and let us never forget those that served, those that were killed in action, those that were wounded in action, those that were held as prisoners of war, and those that are still unaccounted for; and,

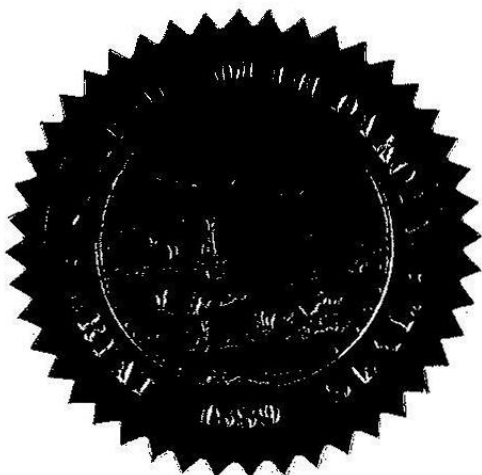
Whereas, We, the great state of South Dakota, honor the 207 patriots whose names are etched on the national memorial and who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know, and in the half century since the official beginning of the Vietnam War, our nation has grappled with the sensitive effects of this violent conflict, and we pay tribute to the veterans who served their country at a time when it took as much courage to come home as it did to fight; and,

Whereas, The freedoms and liberties we are blessed to enjoy are a direct result of the courage, devotion, and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces, and we are grateful for their brave service and draw inspiration and pride from all they are:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2016, as the day to begin the two-year

COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Nineteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State